



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Al Gilson, Public Information Officer, WSDOT (509) 324-6015
Shannon Amidon, Public Information/Education Coordinator, SRTC (509) 343-6370
Teresa Stueckle, Public Affairs Manager, STA (509) 325-6063
Robin Toth, Public Affairs/ Communications, City of Spokane, 625-6740
Laura Rumpler, Director of Community Relations, Spokane County 477-7268

July 16, 2002

Transportation Management Center Begins Operations

The Spokane Regional Transportation Management Center (SRTMC) commenced operations earlier this month. This new facility, located on the third floor of the Spokane Intermodal Center at 221 West First in downtown Spokane, monitors traffic conditions with images from live cameras placed at strategic locations along Interstate 90. The SRTMC originated with a 1998 partnership agreement that created the first inter-agency Transportation Management Center in the country.

The Regional Transportation Management Center is a joint partnership project between Washington State Department of Transportation, Spokane Regional Transportation Council, Spokane Transit Authority, Spokane County, and the City of Spokane.

(More)

2-2-2-2

Transportation Management Center

July 16, 2002

The SRTMC, staffed since July 1st with two new traffic systems operations specialists, can receive reports from State, City, County, and STA personnel in the field, as well as from police and fire units. Traffic information routed to the public via the media or through a free e-mail service that will be made available soon. Operators can also contact law enforcement or traffic incident response units if they observe a collision on the video monitors. The Center team has the capability of placing real-time information on the changeable message signs located on I-90 and U.S. 2., plus, they can record messages on the two highway advisory radio systems located in the I-90 corridor. The operators will then enter real-time incident data into a traffic information website. In the near future, the TMC operators will be able to shift the timing on selected signal systems to series of pre-set plans in order to address temporary congestion situations.

The overall goal of this new Regional Transportation Management Center is to maximize the use of the existing transportation network in the Spokane metropolitan area. If motorists have access to more reliable information, they can plan their trips using the most efficient routing. The result will be reduced congestion, fewer secondary collisions, and improved air quality. This service is very valuable as every minute of road blockage creates 4 to ten minutes of traffic congestion.

The Transportation Management Center will be staffed from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. During winter months, an operator will be on duty 24 hours per day.

Funding for the \$1.3 million facility came from Federal Congestion Management/Air Quality funds with State and local matching dollars.

#